

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00

PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01 DRC-01 /178 W

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O P 181148Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6176

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEOASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 7368

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, US, GATT

SUBJECT: GATT ALL-FIBER TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 246946

1. SUMMARY. WE HAVE ADVISED THE EC COMMISSION OF THE
STRONG US GOVERNMENT CONCERN ABOUT THE DELAY IN
CONCLUDING THE ALL-FIBER TEXTILE AGREEMENT. THEY ASSURE
US THAT THEY ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SOLVE THE
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LAST-MINUTE PROBLEM RAISED BY THE FRENCH. WE UNDERSTAND

THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE IS MEETING IN GENEVA TODAY,
DECEMBER 19. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTINUING TOUCH WITH KEY EC
COMMISSION OFFICIALS SINCE TUESDAY NIGHT, DECEMBER 18,
REGARDING THE DIFFICULTIES THAT PREVENTED SIGNING OF
THE TEXTILE AGREEMENT ON SCHEDULE. WE HAVE TALKED
WITH ERNST, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS
AND WITH SOAMES' CHEF DE CABINET, HANNAY, WE CONVEYED
THE POINTS IN THE REFTTEL, LEAVING NO DOUBT ABOUT THE
IMPORTANCE THE US ATTACHES TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION
OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON DECEMBER 20.

3. OUR SOURCES INFORM US THAT, ON THE BASIS OF INFOR-
MATION FROM MEYNELL IN GENEVA TUESDAY EVENING, WELLENSTEIN,
DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS, HANNAY AND
ERNST MET TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION. THEY UNDERSTOOD
THAT THE FRENCH DELEGATE IN GENEVA WAS RAISING QUESTIONS
ON VARIOUS POINTS, NOTABLY ONE RELATED TO THE EFFECTIVE
DATE FOR REGISTERING BILATERAL RESTRAINTS UNDER THE MULTI-
LATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT. THEY UNDERSTOOD FURTHER THAT
THE FRENCH DELEGATE MAINTAINED HE HAD TO CHECK WITH PARIS.
THEY RELUCTANTLY REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT THE
COMMISSION HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME.
OTHERWISE, THE FRENCH WOULD PREVENT THE COMMUNITY'S
ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT IRRESPECTIVE OF HOW THE
COMMISSION OR OTHER MEMBER STATES MIGHT INTERPRET
THE EC COUNCIL NEGOTIATING MANDATE. (ERNST SAID THAT,
IN ANY CASE, THE MANDATE DID NOT EXACTLY FIT ALL THE
POINTS THAT AROSE IN GENEVA; IN ITSELF, THIS WAS NOT
SURPRISING.)

4. HANNAY AND ERNST ASSURED US THAT THE COMMISSION IS
DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME THE ROADBLOCK.
WE UNDERSTAND THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE IS MEETING IN
GENEVA TODAY, DECEMBER 19. ERNST EXPECTS TO ARRIVE
IN GENEVA IN THE LATE AFTERNOON AND BE IN FURTHER TOUCH
WITH JURICH. GREENWALD

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